

# SPOKE

## Conestoga College, Kitchener

JULY 10, 2000

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## New programs at college

### Training and development will offer four new courses

By Jes Brown

Four new programs will begin this fall in the training and development department — Web design specialist, Web applications programmer, CNC (control pneumatic circuits) programmer operator program, and information technology professional.

The training and development department decided to expand its programs to include more related to the Web, said Darren Romkey, a computer training consultant with the college. "We've dabbled in it a while now with a number of our programs, but as far as high end programs that really specialized in the new technologies that are out there, we really didn't have anything," said Romkey.

The Web design program will last 12 weeks, is a full-time course at the Waterloo campus and costs \$3,995. It will teach students how to use Dreamweaver, HTML and DHTML, Flash and Frontpage as well as image editing for the Web, project management and Web site marketing and promotion.

The Web applications programmer course is a full-time, 16-week course that starts Sept. 5 at the Waterloo campus and costs \$4,995.

The program introduces students to FrontPage 2000, Java Script, Visual Basic, Java, XML, Perl and CGI. It's designed to give students

the skills they require to design develop and run professional corporate Web sites.

These programs were designed after talking to Internet service providers about what applications they would want to see, said Romkey.

"Really, what these two new programs are to address are the high end Internet applications," Romkey said, "but not only from one perspective. We've got one that's from the programming and one that's from the graphics end."

"It is designed to take a person that's relatively inexperienced and teach them some of the new and coming technologies."

Darren Romkey, computer training consultant

provides students with several computer skills so they can troubleshoot, oversee and maintain computer networks, servers, hardware and software.

The program runs 44 weeks, full-time, starts on Sept. 18 at the Doon campus and costs \$14,995.

"It (the information technology professional course) is designed to take a person that's relatively inexperienced (only has basic computer skills) and teach them some of the new and coming technologies," said Romkey.

The fourth program is the CNC programmer operator program.

"It's kind of a step in a sideways direction from what we have been offering," said Romkey.

In the past the training and development department has offered a



Darren Romkey, computer training consultant at Conestoga College, shows off the pamphlets to the four new courses that will begin this fall in the training and development department.

(Photo by Jes Brown)

program that taught computer aided design with an introduction to computer aided machining.

Romkey said that people often asked if the college would take that program a bit further. This program has made that leap, he said.

The college has purchased two new computer operated wood-working machines for this pro-

gram, which each cost the college about \$37,000. The college is in negotiations with the manufacturer to partially sponsor the course.

Typically, these machines cost \$50,000 if they are bought retail.

This program starts Oct. 2 and runs full-time for 24 weeks. The cost is \$7,995 and the location has not been determined yet.

## Marks key factor in admittance to Conestoga

By Julie Porter

In past years, applicants to some college programs may have been interviewed by faculty to judge their suitability and ability to succeed in a course, but not everyone thought it was a fair process, and so it was discontinued.

A questionnaire might have been filled out to gauge writing skills, problem-solving ability or to find out why a student wanted to take a program, but, not everyone liked the use of questionnaires either and they, too, ceased to be used.

So now, a student's academic ability generally determines whether the person will be admitted to Conestoga College.

Jennifer Leith, associate registrar,

said that with most programs there is a strong correlation between academic strength and success.

"The questionnaire was removed primarily because of the amount of time it took to mark."

Jennifer Leith, associate registrar

"The questionnaire was removed primarily because of the amount of time it took to mark," said Leith. "If a program is oversubscribed, that means marking 600-700 questionnaires."

Leith said that because the ministry

has shortened the admission cycle, it makes marking questionnaires and making admissions decisions very difficult.

"In the past, students' admission applications had to be sent in by March 1, with the decisions sent out by May 15. But the system has changed and now applications must be in by Feb. 1 and offers go out to mature students as early as Feb. 1 and to secondary school students by May 1," said Leith.

Leith said there was no supporting data to tell whether questionnaires were effective or not. Leith used nursing as an example of a program that has recently stopped using a questionnaire.

"I don't know how we can find out who is compassionate or suit-

ed to the nursing by a questionnaire," said Leith. "Plus, one person may judge compassion and suitability very differently from another."

"The questionnaire and the interview must be very objective, very relevant and very measurable in order to meet the ministry requirements," said Leith.

"It would be great if everyone came to the college with a high work ethic, a good strong academic base and compassion, but unfortunately, that is something that we cannot control," said Leith.

Many programs now stress mandatory attendance at orientation meetings so students will make good decisions about what programs they want to take.



## Domestic violence on the rise in Ontario

The wounding of Toronto woman Zahra Zeinali by her ex-husband, Javad Zeinali, on June 26 comes less than a week after Gillian Hadley was shot and killed by her estranged husband in her Pickering home.

In light of the Zeinali shooting and the murder of Hadley, it would seem domestic violence is once again on the rise.

In southern Ontario for the month of June alone there were numerous cases of spousal abuse. And these are just the ones reported to police.

### A restraining order is a useless joke and not worth the paper it's written on.

On June 25, Maria Frana was abducted by her estranged husband, who threatened to toss her off a 20th-floor balcony.

On June 13, Harjaap "Jay" Bolla, 29, was ambushed in the underground garage of her home, stabbed and set on fire by her former fiancé, who then killed himself.

Toronto police Det.-Const. Marc Lortie, who is investigating the Zeinali shooting, said in a June 27 Toronto Star article that he welcomes the thought of an inquest into the province's latest case of domestic violence.

In both Zeinali's and Hadley's cases, warning signs were there.

In 1997, Javad Zeinali was charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault and a weapons offense after attempting to kill his ex-wife, yet received only a conditional sentence without jail time and probation.

In Gillian Hadley's instance, her estranged husband, Ralph, had several restraining orders against him and police had visited the home on several occasions in attempts to enforce the court's orders.

But in the end, police and courts could not stop him from murdering his wife.

A week after Hadley was slain, the Ontario government announced it would spend \$50 million on a "victims' justice action plan."

The money will help link shelters and rape crisis centres electronically with the justice system and will pay for community pilot projects, Attorney General Jim Flaherty said.

He also said in a June 28 Toronto Star article, "It's unlikely we'll ever eradicate domestic violence, but that doesn't mean you don't do everything you can."

A \$200-million integrated justice system project is to be implemented by 2001. It features a computer system that will link lawyers, police and correctional services in order to track domestic abusers. However, advocates for battered women feel the government needs to do more.

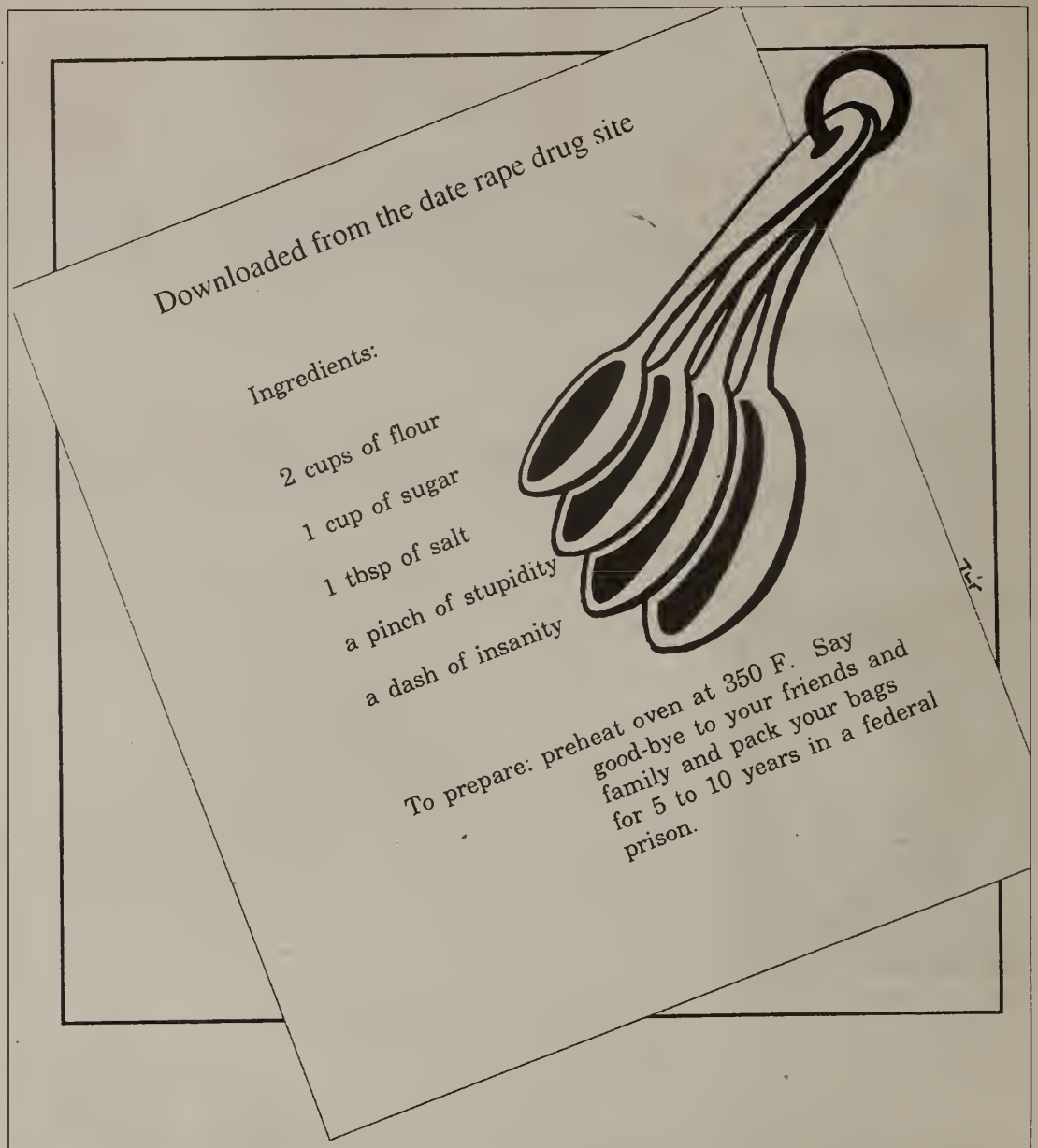
NDP women's issues critic Frances Lankin said in the same Toronto Star article she welcomed the initiative but, "It misses the mark — so much so we can't help but feeling our issues are being paid lip service."

Vivien Green, of the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto, said in the same article: "Restraining orders are a huge issue. Currently, they are non-enforceable."

And one has to only look at past events to see that Green is right.

Canada's justice system is still too lenient when dealing with spouse abusers. A restraining order is a useless joke and not worth the paper it's written on.

How many more women will be slaughtered by their husbands or boyfriends before our government heeds the call?



## Internet site opening doors for rapists with new drug recipe

The availability of drugs on the Internet is growing at alarming rates and a new formula for a date rape drug is now being publicized on Web pages.



Tracy Ford

Imagine a 16-year-old boy surfing the net. He comes across a drug that will allow him access to females classmates without having to suffer rejection. Peer pressure tells him that everyone else is having sex, and he should be as well.

Or imagine a 30-year-old man who has power issues with women, and the new drug recipe he finds on the Internet will allow him the freedom to act upon his urges without having to face the consequences.

The drug acts as a sleeping pill would; the victims have the drug slipped into their drink or food, and it makes them feel like they are drunk even when they haven't fin-

ished one drink. They fall asleep and wake up naked, confused and assaulted.

Experts have many different opinions about rapists and what drives them to commit their crimes, but one thing remains the same: whether the drug is used or not, rape is rape. The victims may not know it at the time because they are passed out, but any unwanted sex act is rape, and if the victims are out cold they can not consent to anything.

With the introduction of such technology as the Internet, people around the world can communicate more easily. Families torn apart by distance can chat or exchange e-mail, and sick people can inform others about their disease by starting a Web page.

But the Internet can not be regulated, and decent people are forced to sift through child pornography sites, serial killer propaganda and now recipes telling people it's OK to rape as long as the victim does-

n't know it.

Potential victims, women and men, should be cautioned not to allow anyone access to their drinks except a bartender at a bar or restaurant. House parties hold the most potential for a would-be date rapist.

Finish your drinks before heading to the bathroom. Eat plenty of food to prevent alcohol from quickly entering your blood stream.

Police have advised travelling with groups of friends and only leaving the bar or party with them and no one else.

The publication of such a drug formula is horrific and now more have access to the violating recipe. There will be a greater number of assaults and a greater number of victims. People should act with a greater amount of caution.

The cowards who use the Web page are faceless, nameless and could be anyone on the street or at a friend's party.

# SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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## Escape or die frying

Chicken Run Star Mel Gibson lights up clay animation film with voice

By Jes Brown

There is a new Mel Gibson movie out in theatres. It is dramatic and filled with action and romance and is about a rebel going against the odds to fight for freedom.

No, it's not the movie you think it is.

The movie is not The Patriot; it's Chicken Run.

Chicken Run is the first full-length clay animation film from the people who created the Oscar-winning Wallace and Gromit series: Aardman Studios. It was co-directed and written by animators Peter Lord and Nick Park.

Gibson is the voice of Rocky the Rooster, who finds himself inside Tweedy's Chicken Farm among many chickens, including Ginger (voiced by Julia Sawalha), Bunty (voiced by Imelda Staunton), Babs, (voiced by Jane Horrocks), Mac (voiced by Lynn Ferguson) and fellow rooster Fowler (voiced by Benjamin Withrow).

Ginger and her fellow chickens are tired of being forced to lay eggs day in day out. And once they no longer lay eggs, the evil Mrs. Tweedy (voiced by Miranda Richardson) comes in and takes them to the chop, a chopping block to cut the chickens' heads off, then serves them up for dinner.

The chickens make several disastrous attempts to escape the farm. Many of these animated

scenes are parodies of other movies, most predominantly The Great Escape.

Finally, after several failed tries and the loss of a friend to the chop, Ginger is sitting alone outside when she sees, flying over the trees and right into her farm, a rooster.

From here on in it's a hilarious ride as Rocky the Rooster tries teaching the chickens to fly and to romance Ginger at the

same time. A twist is thrown in here to get things a little more desperate.

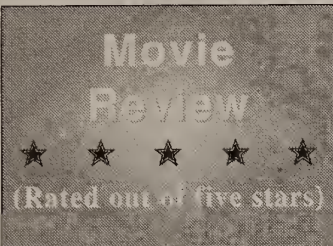
Mrs. Tweedy is tired of being a poor egg farmer and buys a chicken pie-making machine.

Now the poor chickens really have to fly the coop. The movie is punctuated by the unique wit Lord and Park showed first in Wallace and Gromit.

Sawalha does an excellent job as the voice of the chicken Ginger, and Gibson is wonderful as always, but the chicken who steals the show would have to be Babs.

Horrocks (Little Voice) shines as her character Babs is much more like you'd expect a chicken to be than any of the others.

Scatterbrained and a little on the stupid side, Horrocks delivers some of the best lines of the whole movie. After one scene where Babs has a close brush with death, she is heard to say: "I just saw me whole life pass



Rocky and Ginger and their fellow flock try to escape from Mrs. Tweedy in the clay animation comedy adventure Chicken Run.

(Internet photo)

before me eyes . . . it was really boring."

Another notable chicken is the Scottish Mac, voiced by Ferguson. Ferguson's Mac is the brains of the chickens who spends a lot of

the movie trying to tell Ginger that chickens weren't built to fly.

Because of Mac's thick Scottish brogue, Gibson can't understand a word she says and doubts she's speaking English or even using real words.

All in all, this movie is a great hour and a half (give or take a minute) glimpse into the life of an animated chicken.

If you go, get ready to laugh. This movie is not just for kids.

## Kid Rock's greatest hits CD features band's lesser known compositions

By James Campbell

Kid Rock, the self-proclaimed Stone Cold Pimp of the Nation, returns to the shelves of music stores everywhere in the new album, the History of Rock.

This isn't an album of new songs, but a compilation of two previous hard-to-find CDs. It also includes a collection of re-recorded and remixed songs, along with some previously unreleased demos and a couple of new tracks, most notably American Bad Ass.

American Bad Ass is done to the rhythm of Metallica's Sad But True, with Kid's usual addition of lyrics informing everyone he's a cowboy with his middle finger in the air and he just doesn't care — words that are becoming more and more redundant with each new song he releases.

The tracks on this CD tell the story of Kid's bunched up hostility, which he translates into lyrics quite well, though you wouldn't want your mom to hear it.

As in his previous multi-platinum CD, Devil Without a Cause, Kid Rock screams out his sometimes brilliant, often vulgar lyrics about his abusive father, and the hard times he had growing up in Detroit.



No one cares about this stuff and it's a good thing his band, Twisted Brown Trucker, knows how to rock hard and often, or else he'd still be playing in a chicken-wire cage in some scummy bar somewhere in Michigan.

Joe C., Kid Rock's sidekick who is three-foot-nine with a 10-foot extremity, pops in every once in a while, not forgetting to include the f-word in his nonsensical blabbering. Most people find this guy amusing, but Kid Rock can lose him at the next red-light district

they visit.

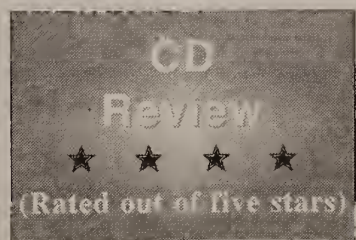
Most of the songs on this CD are a bit slower than on his previous disc.

They're songs that combine a bit of soul and funk, while the words are belted out as a rap. Fans who are used to his previous heavy rock songs such as Bawitdaba and Cowboy will be disappointed to find that nothing on this album except American Bad Ass is as grungy as they are.

The History of Rock is a great way to see what Kid Rock was like before he became the hugely successful pimp of the nation.

It's a tad laid back, but funky, nonetheless.

It goes without saying that this album comes with the parental supervision label, but if you're old enough to listen to it, it's a darn good addition to any collection. Unless your collection includes Anne Murray.



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